

F/60, White, Severe Headache, Patient Looks Ill And Does Not Talk



Doctor: Hi Mrs Smith. You look so sick. What can I do for you today?

Patient: I have terrible headache. (With facial grimace)

Doctor: OK. I'll try to do my best to do it real quick. When did you start having this pain?

Patient: Well, last night I started to feel some pain but when I woke up this morning, it just got worse.

Doctor: Has it been there all the time or was it on and off?

Patient: On and off.

Doctor: I see. In a scale of 1-10, with 10 as the highest, can you rate your pain now?

Patient: It's a 9 doctor.

Doctor: Which part of your head hurts?

Patient: All over the head.

Doctor: What is it like? Is it sharp, dull, squeezing, pulsating or pressure like?

Patient: It's sharp.

Doctor: Have you ever had similar headaches before?

Patient: No.

Doctor: Was there any warning that the headache is about to come?

Patient: No doctor.

Doctor: Did you wake up from sleep last night because of pain?

Patient: Yes. It's very painful.

Doctor: Do you have any fever, chills, night sweats?

Patient: I had 38.8 degrees celsius temperature this morning.

Doctor: Do you feel sleepy or tired all the time than usual?

Patient: Yes I feel sleepy and easily get tired nowadays.

Doctor: What about nausea or vomiting?

Patient: Sometimes

Doctor: Have you noticed any changes in your vision, numbness or weakness on your arms and legs?

Patient: No, doctor.

Doctor: No seizures or stiffness?

Patient: No

Doctor: Have you noticed any light that seems brighter than usual?

Patient: Yes.

Doctor: Have you had any head trauma?

Patient: No.

Doctor: Have you been stressed out recently?

Patient: No.

Doctor: Do you have hypertension and diabetes?

Patient: I have Hypertension for 7years.

Doctor: Any problems with your heart, kidneys, stomach or any part of your system?

Patient: No Doctor.

Doctor: Do you have any blood vessels abnormality in your brain? Something like arteriovenous malformation?

Patient: No, I don't.

Doctor: Have you had surgeries before?

Patient: No, doctor.

Doctor: Thank you very much Mrs Smith.

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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

- What was the conversation all about?
- What was the patient's problem?
- Why do you think assessment is important before giving intervention?
- How are you going to deal with a patient who insists to have a medication before assessment?
- Pretend to be the doctor and do the assessment for a patient with the same case.